

January 10, 2009 - Rep. Slaughter Joins Baber AME Church to Host Reps. Clyburn and Jackson, Jr.

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Saturday, January 10, 2009

Rep. Slaughter Joins Baber AME
Church to Host Reps. Clyburn and Jackson, Jr. at Pre-Inaugural Congressional Forum

Rochester, NY - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today joined the Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church to host a Pre-inaugural Congressional Conversation at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester. The forum was attended by Congressman James Clyburn, Majority Whip and third ranking member of the House of Representatives, and Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. The purpose of the forum was to inspire the local community to give back.

"I am proud to have brought two remarkable and inspirational leaders to Rochester, Representatives James Clyburn and Jesse Jackson, Jr., to remind us that there is no limit to what we can achieve if we pull together to meet the needs of every member of our community," said Rep. Louise M. Slaughter. "I commend the Baber AME Church on their efforts and am excited to continue working with local churches and community groups to address neighborhood violence and bring about real change. I look forward to the tremendous impact we will have."

The timing of the forum capitalized on the current hopeful mood of the country and asked Rochesterians to go a step further - recommit themselves to the Rochester community, especially in the wake of a spate of violence in the city.

"This is a time of change, hope, and recommitment in our great nation," said Rep. James Clyburn. "I am pleased to join the Baber AME Church and the people of Rochester as we bring together our brothers and sisters, parents and children to be a part of this historic time. It will take great faith, commitment and a joint effort in these challenging times to help restore the American dream and become a more perfect union."

"This is an exciting new era of change for our nation," said Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. "But to bring about the change we so desperately need, we must all recommit ourselves to giving back and taking care of those around us. I applaud the Baber AME Church on their devotion to public service and am proud to be a part of their ongoing efforts to make a positive difference in this community."

Proceeds from the event benefit the Baber AME Church Social Justice Mission and Ministries. The Social Justice Ministry branch of the Baber AME Church has launched a public awareness campaign called "You Bet I Told". This campaign encourages those in the Rochester community to speak out about violence in the community.

"The election of Barack Obama is a shining symbol to the hopeless among us that hope is not gone," said Reverend Marlowe Washington, Baber AME Church.

"I am delighted to welcome two distinguished leaders who have inspired us with their commitment to public service to get involved ourselves. Through our Social Justice Ministry we will work to get everyone involved in the effort to strengthen our community."

###